

Claims 1 – 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously withdrawn) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially astroidal-shaped.

Claim 10 (previously withdrawn) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially diamond-shaped.

Claim 11 (previously withdrawn) The ornamental fence insert for a picket fence as claimed in claim 4 in which said body is substantially cross-shaped.

Claims 12 – 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended) A picket fence comprising:

a substantially horizontally extending ~~top upper~~ rail having a bottom surface, a substantially horizontally extending ~~intermediate lower~~ rail having a top surface and being spaced below and parallel to said ~~top upper~~ rail, and a plurality of spaced substantially vertical pickets extending through said ~~intermediate lower~~ and ~~top upper~~ rails to define rectangular spaces with said rails,

an ornamental insert for said rectangular spaces, said ornamental fence insert comprising a body having a perimeter, an upwardly facing flat abutment surface and a downwardly facing flat abutment surface formed on the perimeter of said body in abutment with ~~the top rail bottom surface and~~ the bottom surface of the ~~top upper~~ rail and the top surface of the bottom rail, respectively, and brackets projecting outwardly and horizontally from the perimeter of said body, each bracket having a pair of opposed sidewalls defining a u-shape for straddling and engaging said vertical pickets.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim 15 in which said opposed sidewalls are joined by a web.

Claim 18 (previously amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim 15 in which each of said opposed sidewalls overlaps a surface of one picket, in the direction of the horizontally extending direction of said rails, by a distance less than one half of the dimension of said picket in said direction, whereby sidewalls of adjacent fence inserts do not impinge.

Claim 19 (currently amended) A picket fence as claimed in claim 15, in which the spaces are square and in which the ornamental insert is selected from the group consisting of circular-shaped, astroidal-shaped, diamond-shaped~~[[,]] and cross-shaped_ and elliptical-shaped inserts.~~

Claims 20 – 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim 15 in which said insert and said picket fence are metal.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim 15 in which said insert is ~~plastic~~ elliptical shaped.

Claim 24 (previously amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim 19 in which said insert is metal.

Claim 25 (currently amended) The picket fence as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 23 in which said insert is ~~plastic~~ metal.

Claims 26 - 28 (canceled)